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Effective: Draft

Derby Fire Department
Standard Operating Procedure Number 08
Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Derby Fire Department recognizes its response to incidents often present a high risk to its members. This procedure identifies the requirements and procedures of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) at such incidents.
- 1.2. Establishment of a RIT is intended to increase the overall level of safety for the fire department members and should integrate with procedures that are already in effect (i.e., Accountability, Incident Command, etc.).

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The objective of the RIT is to provide for an immediate means of rescue and removal of trapped or injured firefighters. The activation of the team at an incident is intended to provide an initial response to any firefighter reported in distress.
- 2.2. Generally, the types of distress situations requiring activation of the RIT will be:
 - a) an activated TPASS device with no confirmation by the Incident Commander of the firefighter's status,
 - b) a May-Day call from a firefighter lost or disorientated in the building,
 - c) a partial or complete structural collapse during the incident, or
 - d) at the discretion of the IC when a firefighter is suspected to be in distress.

3. Requirements - General

- 3.1. Team members must be experienced firefighters capable of making a positive contribution in a very stressful and dangerous situation.
- 3.2. Team members should possess adequate ability and training experience to complete the tasks required.
- 3.3. Team members must be a Certified Interior Structural Firefighter as defined by the Derby Fire Department, and thus trained and medically cleared to use SCBA.

- 3.4. Team members must be proficient in the use of the resources of power and hand tools required for the team.
- 3.5. Members available for the Rapid Intervention Team must train together regularly to guarantee teamwork and proficiency.

4. Response

4.1. Response of a Rapid Intervention Team to an incident will require the following:

4.2. Members

Minimum 4 Team Members

Maximum 8 Team Members

Command Structure:(1) RIT Officer (Company Officer/Senior Member present)

(3-7) Hands-on Members

4.3. Equipment (RIT Member)

Flathead Axe (1)

Halligan Bar (1)

Pressurized Water Can (2)

Hook (2)

Chainsaw with carbide blade or circular saw (3)

Search Rope (3)

Thermal Imaging Camera (*RIT Officer*)

4.4. Additional Equipment – Resources Immediately Available

Ground Ladders

Hand Line

Spare Air Bottles (Spare SCBA if available)

Airbags

Hydraulic and pneumatic rescue tools

Shoring

4.5. Minimum Personal Protective Equipment

Full Interior structural firefighting gear

SCBA

T Pass device (DFD will dedicate minimum of 8 TPASS devices for RIT, members from other departments)

Hand light

Minimum one (1) portable radio for each pair of members with operations frequency compatible with each member and with the Incident Commander

5. **Dispatch**

5.1. A Rapid Intervention Team will be dispatched for all incidents with confirmation of fire in a structure.

5.2. The Incident Commander may "Special Call a Rapid Intervention Team" for other Box Alarms as deemed necessary.

5.3. A Rapid Intervention Team will be automatically dispatched for all Second Alarm

6. **Districts**

6.1. Rapid Intervention Team Districts

- Shelton RIT - West Response District
- Ansonia RIT - East Response District

6.2. NOTE: For large scale incidents the Incident Commander may Special Call additional Rapid Intervention Teams to guarantee complete coverage for all operations.

7. **Responsibilities**

7.1. RIT Officer - Report to Command Post with required equipment and portable radio turned on and tuned to the appropriate Fire Ground Operating Frequency. Remain at Command Post at all times until activated or dismissed by Incident Commander.

7.2. RIT Members - Report to the Command Post with all required equipment and available portable radios turned on and tuned to the appropriate fireground operating frequency. Remain at a state of readiness at all times. Members of RIT may perform the following while on scene, however, at no time should any member of the team become involved in the firefighting operations of the incident.

- Plan Ahead, Formulate Action Plan
- Identify Hazards
- Monitor Fire Conditions
- Be Aware where units are operating
- Place ground ladders for egress
- Look at building construction

8. Activations

8.1. As a situation develops and a firefighter(s) is identified to be in a distressed situation, the Incident Commander will order the RIT to be activated. All members of the team will immediately assemble with the RIT officer and proceed to the area of last known location of the firefighter.

8.2. A Chief Officer, other than the Incident Commander, will be assigned to command the operations of the RIT. All size up, status reports, and other pertinent information and requests for additional resources will be transmitted to the RIT Command of Operations.

8.3. The Incident Commander will call for an additional RIT whenever the on-site team is activated. EMS shall be alerted of the activation of the RIT.

8.4. Operations of the RIT will continue until the task at hand is completed, or the RIT is relieved by the Incident Commander. It is recognized that dependent of the scope, additional and/or specialized resources may be required to fully complete an RIT operation.

9. De-Briefing

9.1. A Critical Stress De-Briefing Team should be requested to the scene for all incidents where an RIT is activated.